

ICEBREAKER

What comes to mind when you think of the words “social justice”?

THE SOURCE OF JUSTICE

In Deuteronomy 16:18-21:23, God addresses a lot of issues related to the word justice. **Read Deuteronomy 16:18-20.** In this passage, the word we translate as *justice* is the Hebrew word for “everything is the way it should be.” What do you think of that definition of justice?

Some of the commands in this section require death as punishment for crimes we consider minor. In 17:2-7, death is for the person who worships another god. In 21:18-21, death is for a son who doesn’t obey his parents. Why do you think God required death for these offenses? How did these crimes violate justice?

Sometimes when we consider the commands and punishments of the Old Testament, we fail to see how they were acts of justice. On Sunday, I claimed it was because our ideas of justice are flawed. What do you think of that? When do you think humans get justice right and when are we prone to getting it wrong?

Finish this sentence: Because my sense of justice is flawed, my approach to _____ should be _____. Try filling in the first blank with an issue of interpersonal conflict that you are currently facing or with a current contentious societal issue.

GOD’S KIND OF JUSTICE

On Sunday, we quickly covered these ideas. What stood out to you from that overview? What stood out to you from your own study?

- Dt. 17:14-20 • On voting: Pray for direction; select someone humble.
- Dt 18 • On leadership: Show respect, but avoid the frauds.
- Dt 19 • On crime: Establish cities of refuge & don’t abide false witness.
- Dt 20 • On armies: Voluntary only because God fights for you.
- Dt 21 • On social justice: Treat everyone with respect!

A BIGGER JUSTICE

God is deeply concerned about justice. Read Romans 3:21-26 in a few different translations. What do those verses teach you about God’s justice?

The most important realization when it comes to justice is this threefold truth:

God is the source of all justice.

We need to receive his justice and we should reflect his justice.

What is that saying to you?

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